



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

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**Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG**  
Director



**Michael L. Parson**  
Governor

July 9, 2020

Honorable Missouri County Government Officials:

Thank you for your efforts to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 in your communities. As we continue to combat this virus together, we wanted to share some guidance and information regarding the federal CARES Act funding. Missouri received roughly \$2.083 billion of Coronavirus Relief Fund money as part of the Coronavirus AID, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Twenty-five percent of the money has been set aside for local governments.

As you most likely know, guidance on how to appropriately spend these funds have changed since the CARES Act was passed and there is still some confusion and uncertainty regarding appropriate expenditure of funds. Despite some uncertainty surrounding these funds we do know the CARES Act requires funds be used to cover expenses that:

1. Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency;
2. Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and
3. Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

Based on these guidelines, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has created a [General COVID-19 Response and CARES Act Funding Toolkit for Local Governments](#) to assist with the use of CARES Act funds. The Toolkit is designed as a resource for local governments to bolster efforts in preventing and containing the spread of COVID-19. The Toolkit contains information on how local governments can appropriately expend federal CARES Act funding in alignment with Missouri's Show Me Strong Recovery Plan.

[Missouri's Show Me Strong Recovery Plan](#) includes four pillars: testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), hospitals, and data. Based on these pillars, the toolkit lists activities and items local governments can fund with CARES Act funding to support testing strategies and COVID-19 prevention and containment strategies within their local communities, including:

- **Testing**
  - Testing is crucial to quickly identifying positive cases and stopping transmission within the community. Local governments can organize and fund community testing for residents. The toolkit contains information on how to initiate these efforts.
  - The State testing strategy includes five lines of testing efforts: box-in testing for outbreaks; sentinel testing for at-risk populations; healthcare worker and first responder testing; industry security testing; and community testing. Local governments are encouraged to implement any of these testing efforts.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
  - PPE is an integral component for all COVID-19 prevention and containment strategies. Purchase of PPE continues to be a challenge. The toolkit contains information regarding Missouri's PPE Marketplace and how to join.
  - Local government's investment in PPE for employees, school districts, and even local essential businesses can be funded with CARES Act funding, provided the expenditures meet the three requirements above.
- **Contact Tracing**
  - Contact tracing—the identification of exposed individuals—is another crucial component to stopping the spread of COVID-19. The demand for contact tracing associated with COVID-19 is unprecedented.

[www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov)

**Healthy Missourians for life.**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will be the leader in promoting, protecting and partnering for health.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER: Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

- Local governments are encouraged to invest in contact tracing efforts that already exist in your communities, typically within your local public health departments. Allowable expenditures can include:
  - New or additional staffing of contact tracers within your local health department
  - Cross training of existing staff and personnel costs of those staff when re-directed to contact tracing efforts
  - Purchase of supplies needed for contact tracing including computer equipment and PPE.
- The State has developed a structured approach to contact tracing and will be supportive of local efforts. The toolkit contains additional information on this topic.

Access the COVID-19 Response & Funding Toolkit at:  
[www.health.mo.gov/CARESToolkit](http://www.health.mo.gov/CARESToolkit)

Access the Show Me Strong Recovery Plan at:  
<https://showmestrong.mo.gov/>

For additional inquiries please contact the Center for Local Public Health Services at 573-751-6170.

Thank you again for the work you are doing to partner with the State in ensuring a strong recovery. We can't do this alone – it takes all of us working together.

Stay well!



Randall Williams, MD, FACOG  
Director, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services